

ABAC meeting minutes for October 2, 2006

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Ted Packard, and Christopher Tonkin. Brian Postlewaite and Joey Glushko were also present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

Update on private tour of Minuteman Bikeway for proponents of the Wakefield Rail-Trail, scheduled for Sunday, October 15. Jack will meet the people from Wakefield at the Bedford end of the trail, give a short talk, and lead a ride to the Alewife end. This group is advocating for a new trail in Wakefield.

List and discuss possible presentation topics and speakers for ABAC Winter Social in February. We discussed a possible speaker named Phil Goff who has suggested a presentation on bicycle amenities in Portland, Oregon. He was once an urban planner in the Portland area. We decided that we would like to hear from Goff. We might also show the DVD "Enjoy the Ride." Joey suggested that we invite advocates of the East Coast Greenway to fill us in on the progress that has been made on that project. We decided that, once again, the event will be on the Thursday night before the school vacation.

*We approved the minutes from September and June.

Video Screening of "Enjoy the Ride: Essential Bicycling Skills," a new DVD produced by the League of American Bicyclists. This video is hosted by an Effective Cycling instructor. Joey asked if we could do the video at a separate showing to which the Arlington Police could be invited. She thought that the video is too instructional for the Winter Social. Another suggestion was to show the video before the Bike-Arlington Tour. Joey also told us that she thought it would be good to show this video continuously in some bicycle shop in town and also somehow show it at Town Day. We decided that it is probably too long to show at the Social (besides being too technical) but we might show the short version included on the DVD.

Discussion on cyclists not looking/stopping at STOP signs on the Minuteman Bikeway. There have not been many accidents, but this problem is causing friction between bicyclists and motorists. Jack told us that we should have the police enforce obeying the signs. Christopher and Jack volunteered to serve on the TAC subcommittee that is studying this problem. Ted added that the police could remind cyclists that helmets are required for everyone under the age of 16. Jack said that we should start this campaign in Arlington and encourage other nearby towns to follow suit.

Update on advertising/signage encroachments on the bikeway. The sandwich board signs popping up along the bikeway are dangerous. Joey show us a draft of a policy about signage along the bike path which will be presented to the

Selectmen. One aspect of the policy bans sandwich boards type signs. In addition, the policy designates the sizes for signs on businesses along the bikeway. Brian suggested that such a policy would be hard to enforce especially for movable signs which are the most dangerous.

ABAC is also exploring this issue with the other Towns on the path. Jack suggested that we send out our policy to the other Towns for comment. Joey told us that we should compose a note to inform the Selectmen that we are working on this project.

Update on sewer construction on the bikeway in Lexington. The bikeway in Lexington will be disrupted for sewer work this fall and winter. The work will mostly take place between Hancock and Revere Streets in Lexington.

Discussion of a possible inventory project in Arlington to report and track local roadway-safety hazards for cyclists. This is being done in Cambridge and it would be a good idea to do such a survey in Arlington. Cambridge has supplied us with forms and guidelines for doing the surveys. Jack asked us if we should bring in the DPW so we could be assured that something would be done about the hazards that we might point out.

ACTION ITEM: Joey will contact the DPW.

We will revisit this topic at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37

*Denotes a vote was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.